is the constant endeavour of banks to assist the beneficiaries within the laid down norms and prescribed procedures.

Excess transportation charges paid by SAIL

1014. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express on the 29th January, 1991, regarding excess payment of Rs. 26.60 lakh by the SAIL for transportation of imported steel material at Paradip port; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) The transportation of HR Coils in Paradip Port was done by SAIL at the request of the port authorities who did not have adequate equipment to carry out this work. For this purpose, open tenders were called for by SAIL, on the basis of which a contract was awarded to M/s. Orissa State Commercial Transportation Corporation Limited, which is a Government of Orissa undertaking. The total amount paid to this company was Rs. 26.59 lakhs.

While no department enquiry was conducted in this case, it was one of the cases looked into by the vigilance Wing of SAIL as a part of their preventive excercises and after obtaining the comments of the concerned departments, it was found that no further action on this was necessary.

Depreciation in the value of rupee

1015. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of depreciation of the real value of rupee over the past three years and the latest position in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The value of the Indian Rupee measured as reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for industrial workers on base 1982-100 works out to 50.25 paise in December, 1990 (latest available). The value of Rupee was 57.14 paise in December, 1989 and 60.24 paise in December, 1988.

Income-tax raids

1016. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of income tax raids conducted during the last financial year and the results thereof; and

(b) what are the names of cine artists who were found to have evaded income-tax and the amounts thereof in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Income-tax Department conducted 3984 searches during the financial year 1989-90. In the course of these searches, besides incriminating books and documents assets of the value of Rs. 128.02 crores were seized.

(b) It may not be practicable to collect information relating to evasion of income-tax by cine artists, who may include actors, actresses, film directors, music directors, singers, lyricists and others, as it would involve examination of the assessment records of all these persons who are assessed to tax by different officers at various places in the country.

Steps taken to Promote Indo-Pak Trade

1017. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken recently to promote Indo-Pak trade;